

We Need Every Piece of the Puzzle

Grade Level	Sixth
Minimum Time Required	30 Minutes
Materials/Resources	4-6 Board-Backed Puzzles 4-6 Puzzle Bags (Zip-Locks)
Subject Area(s)	Guidance

Project Description:

1. In advance, take several board-backed puzzles and remove the pieces. Put the pieces from each puzzle in a zip-lock bag and attach it to the puzzle back. You will need approximately one puzzle for every 3 - 4 students.
2. When you have the puzzles taken apart and put into bags, remove one puzzle piece from each of the bags and put these puzzle pieces in their own separate bag.
3. During class, divide your students into groups of 3 - 4. Give each group a puzzle and each member of the group approximately the same number of pieces of the puzzle (depending on how many pieces are in the puzzle). Instruct them to keep the puzzle face down on their table or desk until you instruct them to begin.
4. Once each group has a puzzle and puzzle pieces for each member, tell them that when you say go, they are each to put their pieces into the puzzle with their group, and the first group that completes their puzzle wins.
5. Since you have a separate bag with a piece from each of their puzzles, no one will honestly be able to say their puzzle is complete. When students begin to realize they are missing a piece to their puzzle, act surprised or suspicious. If they say they are finished, look at their puzzle and ask them to be sure the puzzle is complete. Play up the surprise until they begin to catch on to the trick.
6. When they begin to notice that all of the puzzles are missing a piece, pull out your bag of the missing pieces and gradually allow each group to finish their puzzle, knowing no one will actually be a winner of the race.
7. Carry on a discussion about what they thought as they did their puzzles. What did they think when one piece was missing?

Discuss the following:

- a) Did each person contribute their pieces to the puzzle?
- b) Could you complete the puzzle without each person's pieces?
- c) Could you truly complete the puzzle without the piece that I had?
- d) How can you relate this puzzle activity with doing jobs in real life (or in the world of work)?

You should get answers such as:

- ✍ You have to work together to complete the job.
- ✍ Jobs fit together like pieces of a puzzle - many times they connect to each other
- ✍ (i.e. Veterinarian works with animals; needs medicine from a pharmaceutical
- ✍ business, gets food from a farmer, buys tools from a salesperson, etc.)
- ✍ Everyone's input is needed to complete the job or to make up the world of work.
- ✍ Everyone's individual talents are important. Everyone has talents and abilities.
- ✍ They may be different from someone else's, but they are equally important when looking at the big picture.

Career Development Standard	Understanding how work relates to the needs and functions of the economy and society.
Career Development Indicator	Describe the importance of work to society.
Delivery Level	Review
Academic Standards	
Language Arts	3.1.b Use various listening techniques in problem-solving and decision-making situations. 4.1.b Present oral information in a logical and coherent manner. 4.2.c Use recognized conventions/mechanics of language in personal communication.
Employability/SCANS Skills	Basic Skills, Thinking Skills
Assessment/Rubric	Students will be evaluated based on class participation.

Submitted by: SD Comprehensive Guidance and Counseling Program Model